IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 7, line 13 to page 7, line 24 with the following new paragraph:

System **200** includes four I/O drawers ~~**202-208**~~ **210-216** , such as, for example, I/O drawers **144-150** in **Figure 1**. However, although depicted with four I/O drawers ~~**202-208**~~ **210-216**,one skilled in the art will recognize that more or fewer I/O drawers may be included than depicted in **Figure 2**. It should also be noted that some of I/O drawers ~~**202-208**~~ **210-216** may be connected to service processor **201** through RIO networks only, through SPCN buses only, or through both. The RIO Controller through which I/O drawers ~~**202-208**~~ **210-216** would be connected to service processor **201** is not shown for clarity. Also not shown are the various connections between I/O drawers **210-216** with each other.

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 16 with the following new paragraph:

During the boot process of a power on event, service processor **201**, which may be implemented, for example, as service processor **135** in **Figure 1**, loads the new service processor firmware **206**, thus updating the service processor firmware, and executes this new service processor firmware to collect vital product data from each SPCN card **220-226**, in each I/O drawer **210-216**. Each SPCN card **220-226** may be implemented as, for example, SPCN cards ~~**152-154**~~ **151-154** in **Figure 1**. Each I/O drawer **210-216** may be implemented as, for example, I/O drawers **144-150** in **Figure 1**. The new firmware images have been previously loaded into the service processor's **201** flash memory **202** during a previous user session on the data processing system **200**. The new firmware images may include new system firmware **208**, new service processor firmware **206**, and new SPCN firmware **204**. Each SPCN card **220-226** contains a SPCN flash memory **230-236** and a SPCN processor **240-246**. The SPCN flash memory **230-236** contains the SPCN firmware image that is executed by the SPCN processor **240-246** to manage power

A2 for the drawer while aiding the service processor **201** in collecting the vital product information.

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 10, line 25 to page 11, line 18 with the following new paragraph:

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a flowchart illustrating an exemplary process for updating a new version of firmware for an SPCN card as a background operation is depicted in accordance with the present invention. Once a system power-on request has been received, such as, for example, in response to someone pushing a power button on the computer, the service processor runs the new updated service processor firmware stored in, for example, the SP firmware **198** section of flash memory **196** in **Figure 1**, and collects vital product data from the SPCN card within each drawer, such as, for example, SPCN cards **210-216** in **Figure 2** (step **302**). The new firmware may ~~includes~~ include new system firmware, service processor firmware, and SPCN firmware and may have been loaded onto the disk processing system from, for example, a web site, a diskette, CD-ROM,or DVD-ROM during a previous session and stored in a non-volatile memory device, such as, for example, flash memory **196** in **Figure 1**. The vital product data includes topology information such as, for example, the identity and number of components contained within each drawer and the physical location of each drawer so that, if there is a problem, a service technician may be directed to the correct location to service the system.

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Please replace the paragraph extending from page 12, line 18 to page 13, line 5 with the following new paragraph:

Once system initialization has been completed, the system firmware signals the service processor that control has been transferred to the host operating system (step **310**). It [[as]] is at this point that the service processor is no longer needed by the system firmware and thus, may initiate any other tasks as needed. Thus, once the system firmware has released the service processor, the service processor then updates the SPCN

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firmware by performing steps **312-324** as a background operation. Thus, the service processor queries the SPCN card for its current firmware level (**step 312**). The service processor then compares the retrieved firmware level of the SPCN card with the stored copy, such as SPCN firmware copy **199** in flash memory **196** in **Figure 1**, received at the last user requested update (step **314**) and determines whether the two match (step **316**). If the SPCN current firmware level matches the stored copy of the firmware, then the firmware is up to date and no further action is necessary.